

4. (original) The drilling fluid additive of Claim 1 wherein said carrier comprises soybean oil.

5. (original) The drilling fluid additive of Claim 1 further comprises uintaite.

6. (currently amended) The drilling fluid additive of Claim 1 2 wherein said graphite comprises from about 2 % to about 50 % of said additive.

7. (currently amended) The drilling fluid additive of Claim 1 wherein said carrier comprises from about 50 % to about ~~98~~ 96 % of said additive.

8. (currently amended) The drilling fluid additive of Claim 1 2 wherein said beads comprises from about 2 % to about 50 % of said additive.

9. (currently amended) A drilling fluid additive mixture manufactured by a method comprising of:

admixing graphite with at least one carrier to create a suspended mixture, said carrier being selected from a group consisting of oils, glycols, esters, olefins and mixtures thereof, and admixing copolymer beads to said mixture, said suspended mixture allowing the surface of said graphite and said polymer beads to be pre-wet with said carrier prior to adding said mixture to a drilling fluid.

10. (cancelled) The drilling fluid additive mixture of Claim 9 further comprising admixing copolymer beads to said suspended mixture, said graphite having an affinity for oils, esters, glycols and olefins.

11. (currently amended) The drilling fluid additive mixture of Claim 9 wherein said beads have a specific gravity at from about 1.0 to about 1.5 and a size from about 40 microns to about 1500 microns.

12. (currently amended) The drilling fluid additive mixture of Claim 9 wherein said beads are comprised of styrene and divinylbenzene.

13. (currently amended) The drilling fluid additive mixture of Claim 9 wherein said graphite has a size range from about 2 microns to about 40 microns.

14. (currently amended) The drilling fluid additive mixture of Claim 9 wherein said oils ~~carrier~~ consist essentially of ~~oils~~, hydrocarbon oils, vegetable oils, mineral oils, paraffin oils, synthetic oils, diesel oils, peanut oils, corn oils, ~~esters, glycols, cellulose, olefins~~ and mixtures thereof.

15. (original) The drilling fluid additive mixture of Claim 9 wherein said graphite comprises from about 2 % to about 50 % of said additive mixture.

16. (currently amended) The drilling fluid additive mixture of Claim 9 wherein said carrier comprises from about 50 % to about ~~98~~ 96 % of said additive mixture.

17. (currently amended) The drilling fluid additive mixture of Claim ~~9~~ 10 wherein said beads comprises from about 2 % to about 50 % of said additive mixture.

18. (currently amended) A method of manufacturing a drilling fluid additive mixture, said method comprising:

shearing graphite with at least one carrier to create a suspended mixture to thereby allow the surface of said graphite to be pre-wet with said carrier, said carrier is selected from a group consisting of oils, esters, glycols, cellulose, olefins and mixtures thereof;  
and

admixing copolymer beads to said suspended mixture.

19. (original) The method of Claim 18 wherein said graphite and said beads having an affinity for oils, esters, glycols, olefins, cellulose and mixtures thereof.

20. (original) The method of Claim 18 wherein said beads have a specific gravity at from about 1.0 to about 1.5 and a size from about 40 microns to about 1500 microns.

21. (original) The method of Claim 18 wherein said beads are comprised of styrene and divinylbenzene.

22. (currently amended) The method of Claim 18 wherein said graphite has solids have a size range from about 2 microns to about 40 microns.

23. (cancelled) The method of Claim 18 wherein said carrier consists essentially of oils, vegetable oils, mineral oils, paraffin oils, esters, glycols, cellulose, olefins and mixtures thereof.

24. (original) The method of Claim 18 wherein said carrier comprises polypropylene glycol.

25. (original) The method of Claim 18 further comprises admixing uintaite.

26. (original) The method of Claim 18 wherein said graphite comprises from about 2 % to about 50 % of said additive mixture.

27. (currently amended) The method of Claim 18 wherein said carrier comprises from about 50 % to about ~~98~~ 96 % of said additive mixture.

28. (original) The method of Claim 18 wherein said beads comprises from about 2 % to about 50 % of said additive mixture.

29. (original) The method of Claim 18 further comprises allowing said beads to be pre-wet with said carrier and shearing until a homogeneous mixture is formed.

30. (original) The method of Claim 18 further comprises adding said suspended mixture to a water-based drilling fluid; and pumping said additive into a well bore.

31. (original) A drilling fluid additive comprising: a first mixture of graphite and oil in combination with a second mixture of graphite and glycol.

32. (original) The drilling fluid additive of Claim 31 wherein said first mixture comprises from about 1% to about 99% of said additive and said second mixture comprises from about 1% to about 99% of said additive.

**REMARKS:**

Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The pending claims in the present application are claims 1, 3-9, 11-22 and 24-32. Claims 2, 10 and 23 have been cancelled without prejudice. Independent claims 1, 9 and 18 have been amended in view the amendments made in the parent and related applications, which have now issued as patents. There is support in the specification for the amendments, including the addition of polymer beads.

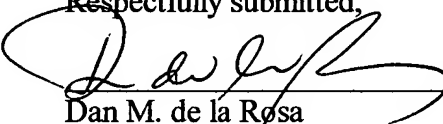
Assuming the Examiner agrees with the above amendments, the Applicant will be submitting a terminal disclaimer to overcome any provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection.

In view of the actions taken and arguments presented, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention is now in condition for allowance.

An early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,



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